GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:448
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
PERFORMANCE OF NHM
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released to the States by National Horticulture Mission (NHM) have been fully utilized during the last two years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Union Government thereto, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the NHM;

(d) if so, the details thereof in physical and financial terms during the said period;

(e) the extent to which the Mission is expected to achieve its objectives during the coming years; and

(f) the details of the funds allocated for implementing the programmes under NHM during 2007-08?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 448 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7TH MAY, 2007.

(a)&(b): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched during 2005-06. An amount of Rs.586.20 crore was released to the State Horticulture Missions (SHMs) during the year 2005-06, against which an expenditure of Rs.196.09 crore was reported by the SHMs. During 2006-07, an amount of Rs.843.85 crore was released, against which an expenditure of Rs. 686.91 crore has been reported by the SHMs. Low expenditure during the year 2005-06 was on account of the fact that, being the first year of its launch, the State Governments took some time in constituting the State Horticulture Missions as a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act and in formulating and approving the Annual Action Plans (AAPs) as per the scheme guidelines. As a result, funds could be released to most of the SHMs during the last two quarters of the financial year 2005-06 and the funds could not be utilized fully, as the planting season was over by then.

(c)&(d): The General Council of NHM headed by the Union Agriculture Minister has reviewed the performance of NHM thrice since the launch of the Scheme. Besides, the performance of the Scheme in terms of physical and financial progress is being reviewed regularly by the Executive Committee of NHM under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation). In addition, Joint Inspection Teams constituted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation conduct regular field visits to the individual States. Besides, senior officers of the department also conduct state-wise review meetings periodically to review the performances. Summary details of the physical targets and achievements for major components during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given at Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively. State-wise details of funds released and expenditure incurred during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given at Annexure-III.

(e): `In principle` approval has been accorded for implementing the Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. It is expected that the objective of the Mission will be achieved in the coming five years.

(f): An amount of Rs.1150 crore has been earmarked for implementing the Scheme during 2007-08.